adjournments, non-filling up of the posts of the Presidents/Members. Some of the steps taken for the speedy disposal of cases by these agencies are as under:-

(i) One time grant of Rs.61.80 crore sanctioned to the States/UTs by the Central Government to supplement their efforts to strengthc ; the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies. Central Government is impressing upon the State Governments to utilize it optimally to augment the infrastructure as per scheme;

(ii) Monitoring of the working of consumer disputes redressal agencies through the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

(iii) States and Union Territories are requested from time to time to take prompt steps to fill up vacant posts of President/Member in the consumer disputes redressal agencies and maintain a panel of suitable candidats for appointment as Presidents/Members against future vacancies;

(iv) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has been amended in 2002 mainly to facilitate the quicker disposal fo complaints besides enhancing the capabilities of the consumer fora, strengthening them with more powers and also by streamlining the procedures and widening the scope of the Act. A provision has also been incorporated in the amendment empowering the senior most Member to act as President in the absence of the regular President of the consumer forums for their uninterrupted functioning. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the State Commissions have been empowered to constitute benches with one or more members for expediting disposal of cases.

Godowns in Maharashtra

1639. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial grants/assistance given to Maharashtra for constructing foodgrains storage godowns and to develop public distribution system infrastructure there; and

(b) the details of the funds granted to the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of the financial grants/assistance given to Maharashtra for constructing foodgrains storage godowns under The Centrally Sponsored Scheme are as under:—

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakh)	No. of Godowns	Capacity (in MTs)
1992-93	77.50	09	4,000
1993-94	19.98	02	1,000
1994-95	67.58	06	3,000
1995-96	41.10	04	2,442
TOTAL:	206.16	21	10,442

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for construction of godowns has been discontinued from April, 2002.

Cereal Procurement

†1640. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of Government purchase of cereals are made from Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the details of the quantity of Government purchase on support price from rest of the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 27 per cent of the total production of cereals are made in the aforesaid States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.